

HawkWatch 2007

Friday Evening, October 5th

7:00pm - Friday Nite Program, 'Raptor Force' — Film with host falconer David Kester and his Red-tailed hawk, 'Smackers'. Humans have had a unique relationship with raptors for more than four thousand years, first through the ancient sport of falconry, and, more recently, as scientists and engineers have turned to these mighty birds—from golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and turkey vultures, to great gray owls and the peregrine falcon—as the inspiration for the latest in aircraft design. Effigy Mounds visitors center.

Saturday, October 6th

HawkWatch hours 8:00 - 4:00pm

8:00 - Bird Hike, Dennis Carter, from Upper Iowa Audubon.

Join Upper Iowa Audubon's birding expert Dennis Carter for an early morning hike to find different species of songbirds, ducks, raptors and others. This hike is a great warm up for HawkWatch!

9:00 - Video, Eagle & The Hawk

While we are setting up for HawkWatch, enjoy 'Eagle & The Hawk' — Academy award-winning actress Joanne Woodward and her daughter, Nell Newman, watch as wildlife expert Morlan Nelson prepares to set free a Red-tail Hawk. (indoor auditorium)

Saturday & Sunday Programs

10:00am ~ 4:00pm

Morning Presentations

10:00 - 'Hunters of the Sky' - Kay Neumann of SOAR (Save Our Avian Resources). Kay will talk about birds of prey basics. Keen eyesight, a specially equipped beak, and strong talons set raptors apart as hunters. Join Kay with her Bald eagle, Red-tailed hawk, and Great horned owl for a closer look at what makes raptors unique and essential links in the natural food chain. (outdoor amphitheater, located directly behind the visitor center).

11:00 - 'Migration' - around the world and back again with a bird's brain - Helen Harvey of the Iowa Falconer's Association This multimedia presentation looks at migration and homing ability in birds. You'll get a glimpse of the winter vacation destinations of some North American raptors and a few other notable migrants. Insights from recent research will be shared probing the mysteries of how birds navigate, because they can, and do, go home again. (indoor auditorium).

12:00 - 'Big Owls Hoot, Little Owls Toot!' - Mike Havlik. Join legendary presenter Mike Havlik for a fun and factual look at owls! Owls hold a special place in our lives, dating back to Greek mythology. Get to know some of these nocturnal predators, their incredible adaptations to night-hunting, and find out why they have such a strong presence in our myths & legends. (outdoor amphitheater, located directly behind the visitor center).

Afternoon Presentations

1:00 - Hunters of the Sky - Kay Neumann of SOAR (Save Our Avian Resources). Kay will talk about birds of prey basics. Keen eyesight, a specially equipped beak, and strong talons set raptors apart as hunters. Join Kay with her Bald eagle, Red-tailed hawk, and Great horned owl for a closer look at what makes raptors unique and essential links in the natural food chain. (outdoor amphitheater, located directly behind the visitor center).

2:00 - Falconry - Hunting with Hawks - Helen Harvey of the Iowa Falconer's Association — This presentation, featuring a falconry bird (or two), will provide an insider's view of falconry and the daily life of a raptor. You'll be able to examine falconry equipment and learn how the odds stack up in favor or against these elusive predators.

3:00 - Hawk ID for Beginners' - Mike Havlik. This program will give you the basics on identifying different hawks in flight. Take this opportunity to learn some key fieldmarks in a fun atmosphere, and create your own id. guide. (indoor auditorium)

Activities for Kids!

Kid's Activities will run from 10:00am — 12:00pm and 1:30pm — 3:30pm

All activities are free! So enjoy yourself & go wild!!!

Dissecting Owl Pellets — Hey!

You never know what you're going to find when you dissect an owl pellet! Don't mistake these little treasures for something that they're not! Owl pellets are the 'coughed-up' remains of prey that the owl can't digest. That means skulls, bones, talons, fur and feathers! Even entire skeletons! They are all wrapped together in a tidy package — just waiting for you to explore!

Hawk Drawing — You don't have to be an artist to have a great time with this activity! Using stencils, you can make fabulous pastel drawings of birds of prey! Get creative! Go Wild! See what kind of magic you can create with color and shape!

Face Painting! — Now is your chance to transform into a hawk! eagle! or owl! Become a raptor with a new mask of color and design!

Predator Tubes — Who's eating Whom? What a great way to learn about food chains! Each tube has a picture of an animal who is part of the chain. Decorate them your way, with your own unique style — then fit them together to discover who's eating whom!

Falconry Knot Bracelets —

Accessorize the Raptor way! Learn a little bit more about hunting with a hawk and make a leather 'jess', or bracelet — just like a falconer would use. Decorate these awesome raptor accessories with different leather stamps.

Parents: We are always appreciative of your feedback and ideas regarding HawkWatch, our presentations and kid's activities. Please talk to a HawkWatch Volunteer, and let us know what you think.

HawkWatch 2007 is dedicated
to a bold young hawker
and his son
JonJon and Jonah Stravers
—forever may you soar—

HawkWatch is co-sponsored by the Upper Iowa Audubon Society, Effigy Mounds National Monument, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program and National Audubon's Upper Mississippi River Campaign. It is powered by the boundless energy of volunteers, and operated on a shoe-string budget.

All of which add up to an event filled with enthusiasm & fun.